

3. On a supposed new Species of Wild Sheep from Ladak.  
By EDWIN WARD, F.Z.S.

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The head and horns of the sheep I now exhibit, and for which I propose the name of "*Ovis brookei*," differs, in the opinion of the late Mr. Blyth, Sir Victor Brooke, myself, and others, from all heads of wild sheep with which it has been compared.

It is therefore believed that this head belongs to an undescribed animal, as the following measurements of the skull as well as those of the horns and character of the same may serve to show.

Fig. 1.



Front view of head of *Ovis brookei*.

The length of the skull of *O. brookei* from between the horns to end of the præmaxillæ is 11 inches, that being an inch and a quarter longer than in the two specimens named *O. vignei* in the College of Surgeons, and also in that of *O. vignei* here exhibited for comparison.

The width between the eye-orbits measures  $4\frac{5}{8}$  in., that of *O. vignei*  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in. The horns of this specimen of *O. brookei*, although belonging to a young animal (as evinced by the teeth and the four progressive annual stages of the horns), measure  $33\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, the circumference at base is  $13\frac{3}{8}$ ; that of *O. vignei*, eight years old, is  $31\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, whilst round the base it is only  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in., *O. brookei* being therefore 3 in. the larger in circumference, as also 2 in. longer, although a much younger animal.

I find by an examination of the skull and horns of *O. vignei* in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons as before referred to, which are marked "3778" and described as "Ladak Argali (*O. vignei*)

presented by Captain Strachey," as also of the specimen marked "3778 A," presented by Dr. Sclater, April 1868 (a figure of which appears in this Society's Proceedings for 1860, p. 127), that these specimens differ from *O. brookei* still more than the large specimen of *O. vignei* which I now exhibit.

Fig. 2.

Horns of *Ovis brookei*.

In all the specimens Sir Victor Brooke and I have examined, we found that the suborbital fossæ in this species (*O. brookei*) are not nearly so deep or suddenly tucked in below the orbits as in *O. vignei* and *O. cycloceros*, as a glance at the skulls of these species which I exhibit will show. In this respect *Ovis brookei* more closely resembles *Ovis ammon* and *O. arkar*.

Again, the orbits also project much less, and the width of the parts below the orbits is greater in comparison to the length of the skull, in the new species than in either of the above. Likewise the greatly increased length of face gives altogether a very different outline, especially when viewed from the front.

Thus the new species shows generally a greater affinity to *O. ammon* of the Himalayas (or *Ovis hodgsoni*, as I believe it is now designated) than to any other form. And it may be said that in *O. brookei* the horns are not only more graceful, but also more largely and boldly ribbed and figured than even those of its gigantic and near ally; the length of the row of molar teeth also far exceeds the length of those of *O. vignei*.

Sir Victor Brooke, who is now visiting the chief museums of the continent of Europe, will, it is to be hoped, on his return to England, be enabled to favour us with further information concerning the species of *Ovis*.

Indeed, I may here remark that I have proposed the name *Ovis brookei* out of respect to the assiduous labours undertaken by that gentleman, who is now engaged in the production of a monograph of the sheep, illustrated by Mr. Wolf.

The head of this new Sheep now exhibited is believed to have been obtained by Sir Morrison Barlow some years since at Leh, in Ladak. It was parted with to a friend, from whom it subsequently passed, upwards of two years since, into my possession.

The late Mr. Blyth, who was so high and excellent an authority on sheep, was very desirous of describing the specimen which I have this evening brought before the Meeting; but I preferred to defer his doing so till I had obtained other heads. This I have not yet been able to accomplish; I, however, hope to do so shortly, and thus to be further enabled to supplement my remarks in support of this new species.

#### 4. On *Crocodylus madagascariensis*, the Madagascar Crocodile.

By DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

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(Plate XXIII.)

Cuvier, in the 'Ossemens Fossiles,' p. 44, mentions a specimen of a Crocodile from Madagascar, brought by M. Havet, and considers it the same as the one from continental Africa; I was inclined to do the same with two specimens of the young in spirits, which the Museum received as coming from Madagascar. Lately the British Museum has received a rather larger specimen direct from Mr. Lormier, who collected in Madagascar; and on comparing this specimen and the other two with specimens of *C. vulgaris* from continental Africa, of about the same size, I find that they all have the beak rather longer and slenderer compared with its breadth, and with straighter sides. At the same time, the sides of the lower jaw of all the specimens from Madagascar are pale and marbled with darker spots, and the sides of the abdomen of the larger stuffed specimens are marked with dark rounded spots placed in oblique cross lines—two peculiarities which I have not observed in any of the specimens from continental Africa. I am therefore inclined to think they indicate that the Crocodile which inhabits Madagascar is distinct from that which inhabits continental Africa; and I propose to call it *Crocodylus madagascariensis*.

I have seen it somewhere observed that the Crocodile of Madagascar is like the Crocodile from America, *Molinia acuta*; but this is a mistake; for although its head somewhat approaches in shape and proportion to that of *Molinia acuta*, its skull and the shields of the body are those of a true Crocodile.

The true Crocodiles have a cross series of four or six small occipital shields in a line, and a nuchal disk behind them of six larger keeled